



## Cheering together

Lajes Youth cheerleaders showed the Atlanta Falcon cheerleaders some of their moves Feb. 13 at the Community Activity Center, while the Atlanta Falcon cheerleaders cheered back to the girls on stage. The cheerleaders performed at Lajes as part of an Armed Forces Entertainment tour. The Atlanta Falcon cheerleaders watched the girls cheer, performed cheers for the girls, met with them and signed autographs. (Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Lehman).

## Personnel support streamlined with new MPE

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud  
65th ABW Public Affairs

The military personnel flight has undergone several changes in the past month which may impact Lajes personnel.

The primary change is that units no longer have commander support staffs, once known as orderly rooms. Personnel who were assigned to CSSs moved to the Military Personnel Element.

"The new organization, under the Air Force Base-Level Service Delivery Model, eliminated CSSs and moved personnelists to the military personnel element to provide centralized personnel support, given the realities of force cuts," said Capt. Michelle Coumbs, Military Personnel Element commander.

"The personnel community took three cuts almost simultaneously," she explained. The three cuts were the Personnel Service Delivery transformation, Congress' PBD 720 cuts, and the realignment of personnel authorizations to man the Air Force Contact Center. "As a result of the reductions, the personnel community simply couldn't sustain the old structure of using personnelists across both commander support staffs and the mili-

tary personnel flight."

Functions personnel would routinely handle in the CSS are now taken care of in individual areas of the MPE.

"We were able to restructure into four new sections that include Customer Service, Force Management, Career Development and Readiness, which will ultimately provide better personnel service," Captain Coumbs explained.

The restructure establishes a focal point for the entire base for programs such as leave, assignments or retraining, which allows consistency and continuity. Individuals contact the area they need directly for assistance.

One of the added benefits to the personnel career field is that personnelists will obtain a broader knowledge base within their duties.

"Under the new construct, single point failures are eliminated and we're able to create a learning organization for personnelists; no longer stove-piping personnel skills by having one Airman specialized in and responsible for a single program — such as evaluations or assignments," Captain Coumbs said. "Now individuals in each section will be personnel generalists, able to answer most any question."

Another change with the BLSDM, is increased access for commanders.

Dashboard, a data retrieval method, allows commanders to access personnel information from their own office.

One thing that won't change, said the captain is the quality in customer service.

"Customers will continue to experience the same top-quality customer service they've come to expect," she said. "In fact, the consolidation maximizes personnel resources and the formation of a continuous learning environment will only serve to increase effectiveness, service, innovation and competence."

Customer service hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday in Bldg. T-112. The entrance is across from the theater.

**Note:** Personnel are encouraged to visit vMPF for Evaluation appeals, Exceptional Family Member Program, Humanitarian assignments, duty history change requests, retirement and retraining requests. Beginning Tuesday, a new self-service assignments application will allow Active duty Airmen, lieutenant colonel and below, to list up to eight continental United States preferences - bases or locales - and apply via the vMPF as part of the Expanded Permissive Assignment program.



## President's Day: More than great sales

By Barbara Langmaid  
65th Air Base Wing Historian

Did you know that President's Day is the largest sale day for retailers behind the day after Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas? Nothing commemorates history more than a new car or clothes.

President's Day is more than a great shopping opportunity; it's a holiday that does not commemorate one leader, but instead, an entire profession.

Created in 1796 in celebration of George Washington's birthday, President's Day is our oldest American holiday. After Abraham Lincoln rose to prominence and fell with tragedy, his birthday also became a day of respect and remembrance. Over time, the two holidays merged into what we now celebrate as President's Day, the third Monday in February and a day of remembrance and honor of the 42 men who have served as our nation's President.

George Washington served as our first Commander-in-Chief. He created the first Presidential Cabinet and established precedent by only serving two terms. When Washington left office, he warned the nation about political parties and alliances with other nations, how both of these would one day tear our nation apart.

Our second and third Presidents made an impact — John Adams created the Navy and Marines, Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana for \$15 million, doubling the size of the United States. In 1814, James Madison ended the war of 1812 with "not one inch of territory ceded or lost." Our 5th President, James Monroe, the Great Diplomat, produced treaties with Russia negotiating the Oregon Territory and Great Lakes and Spain moving them out of Florida. In fact, the Monroe Doctrine continues to be a cornerstone of Latin American peacekeeping and policy. Texas won its independence in 1836 and Andrew Jackson recognized our nation's newest neighbor. It was not until 1845 that President Tyler annexed Texas as our 28th state. President Lincoln attempted some last-minute measures to keep the nation together. He was unfortunately unsuccessful when South Carolina seceded, thus beginning the civil war. Andrew Johnson succeeded Lincoln in 1865 and it was during his presidency we bought Alaska for \$7,200,000 (less than .02 an acre).

Our twentieth century presidents have also had their share of accomplishments. Theodore Roosevelt began his "big ditch" project, the building of the Panama Canal. He was also responsible for the national parks system. He believed conservation was the only way to preserve our national treasures.

Woodrow Wilson kept our nation out of war for four years but then led the nation as we entered "the war to end all wars." Unfortunately, his dream of a League of

Nations was never realized during his lifetime. Calvin Coolidge supported the Kellogg-Briand pact in 1928, an attempt to "outlaw war." Great idea, but in reality not very enforceable.

When the market crashed in 1929 and the economy moved toward depression, Herbert Hoover attempted to restart the economy, however it was not until Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal that the economy began to turn. By 1940, World War II truly turns the course of the American economy. Elected to office for four terms, Franklin Roosevelt died in his sleep, turning the office over to his third Vice-President Harry Truman. President Truman signed several pieces of important legislation, the National Security Act of 1947 which created the Air Force and Executive Order 9981 which desegregated the military. Truman also oversaw the Marshall Plan, Berlin Airlift and the creation of NATO. The world was changing. New nations formed and against the advice of George Washington, new alliances created.

In the past 50 years, we have seen Presidential support for civil rights, environmental and healthcare legislation. President Carter hosted the leaders of Egypt and Israel for peace talks. President Reagan doubled the size of our military and Presidents Clinton and Bush have downsized. We have had war, and we have seen peace.

However, that is not to say that there have not been some embarrassing Presidential moments. Our ninth President William Henry Harrison, gave the longest inaugural address to date and subsequently died of pneumonia two months later. Our 27th President, William Howard Taft was so large that he had to have a special bathtub made and delivered to the White House.

Our nation has experienced four Presidential assassinations, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley and Kennedy. Unfortunately even more assassination attempts: Jackson, T. Roosevelt, F. Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon (twice), Ford (twice), Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton (twice). We have had two President's impeached, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton; however, neither was removed from office.

Nine Presidents never attended college: Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, A. Johnson, Cleveland, and Truman. The college that has the most Presidents as alumni is Harvard: J. Adams, J. Q. Adams, T. Roosevelt, F. Roosevelt, and Kennedy. Grant and Eisenhower attended the U.S. Military Academy, West Point and Carter attended the Naval Academy.

James Buchanan was the only president never to marry. Five presidents remarried

See **PRESIDENT** on page 3

535-4240  
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*The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command*



**Col. JL Briggs**

*should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or [actionline@lajes.af.mil](mailto:actionline@lajes.af.mil).*

**Col. JL Briggs**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



*The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.*

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# Mentor Program enriches Lajes community

**Story and photo by  
Angie Erickson**  
Volunteer Contributor

The Lajes School Library was buzzing with excitement as the mentoring program kicked off at the end of January. Children, ranging from kindergarten to middle school met with a volunteer mentor, who was committed to making a positive impact in the life of a child.

"It was wonderful to witness the positive interaction occurring among the Mentors and Mentees," said Jeanna Gapp, volunteer coordinator who inspired the fun name: **M&M's Mentoring Program**.

This program, with 18

M&Ms already paired, is designed to promote and maintain a network of partnerships to enhance student achievement. "The mentor's role is to provide consistent support, guidance and concrete help to a student who can benefit from a positive role model," said Mrs. Gapp.

One such positive role model, Master Sgt. Duane Frey, 65th Contracting Squadron, said he volunteered for this program because he recognized that some children require additional assistance in certain aspects of their education and with their life coping skills. "Being a positive role model and mentor for children in need is my way of thanking God for the blessings

found in my own children," he said.

Sergeant Frey said that he has gained valuable experience with mentoring at his former assignments which made it easy to establish personal goals for the M&M pair. Here he plans to improve his mentee's reading skills by focusing on sight words appropriate for his mentee's age, improve speaking skills by practicing techniques provided by the mentee's speech therapist, as well as build confidence in his mentee through high praise for jobs well done.

"I want to let the student know that I am proud of his accomplishments," said Sergeant Frey. "I have found that many of our youth require additional adult interaction to help stimulate them socially or academically, or both."

Through the mentoring program, students benefit by receiving assistance with academic endeavors and experience greater self-esteem and motivation to succeed. In return, the mentors benefit by increasing their involvement in the community, recognize they can make a difference and contribute to the student's skills and confidence to be responsible for their own futures.

Research confirms that a mentoring program is a win-win situation for a community.

Studies done by Baylor University and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America have gathered positive impact statistics that support mentoring endeavors. Statistics show children have increased attendance, have better grades and demonstrate an ability to follow rules. Plus they are less likely to be involved in gangs, use alcohol and partake in illegal activities or substances.

The M&M's mentoring program is set to meet every Wednesday from 2:35 to 3:35 p.m. at the school library. Students can still sign up for the current 3rd quarter, as well as the 4th quarter.

While the mentor turnout was wonderful, Mrs. Gapp said she is still in need of two more mentors for this quarter and 10 more for the 4th and last quarter of this school year. Parents and people interested in volunteering as a mentor can call Mrs. Gapp at 295-543-754 or 961-460-299 or e-mail [jeannagapp@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannagapp@hotmail.com) or contact Alicia Bryant-James at 535-3491 or 295-57-3491.

*Note: Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander, has authorized military members and civilian employees who wish to mentor at the school to use one hour each week of official duty time.*



Airman 1st Class Jazmine Rowan, 65th Mission Support Squadron, assists Christian Ramirez during a weekly mentoring session at the school library. Sister, Kaylyn, and mom, Wanita, agree that Christian enjoys the mentoring program and is excited about his future.

## **PRESIDENT** continued from page 2

after the death of their first wives — two of whom, Tyler and Wilson, remarried while in the White House. Reagan was the only divorced president. Six presidents had no children. Tyler — father of fifteen — had the most.

Seven of our last ten Presidents have visited Lajes Field starting in 1952 with Eisenhower and most recently in 2003 with W. Bush. President Nixon stayed in the Commander's Home while visiting in 1971 making T-40 the White House of the Azores.

So, are these Presidential observations still relevant? History is relevant; it helps us to understand people and society. When we understand change, we can make informed decisions about where we want to be in the future. Sometimes what appear to be minor events of the past will shape current actions and events. History is essential for national identity and genuine citizenship. President's Day is more than a day off from work and to enjoy some great sales; it is a day to remember our past but more importantly to imagine our future.

## ----- Lajes Salutes -----

❑ Way to go to Team Lajes' promotees for February: *To Airman 1st Class: Chad McAuliff*, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; *Jonathon Porter*, Det 6, AF News Agency; and *Nicole Roberts*, 65th Services Squadron. *To Senior Airman: Nicholas Berardino*, 65th Communications Squadron; and *Latoya Stewart*, 65th CS. *To Staff Sergeant: Christopher Weightman*, 65th Operations Support Squadron. *To Technical Sergeant: Richard Barnes*, 65th CS; *Michael Buongiorno*, 65th Medical Support Squadron; and *Monica Carranza*, 65th Medical Operations Squadron. *To Master Sergeant: Jeremy Carney*, 65th Mission Support Squadron, *Patrick Clark*, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron; *Benjamin Rouse Jr.*, 65th

OSS; and *Wade Sorenson*, 729th Air Mobility Squadron.

❑ Kudos to **Airman 1st Class Britney Davis**, 65th MDOS, who was presented the Sharp Award in the Airman category for December. **Staff Sgt. Kimberly Glover**, 65th MDOS, was selected in the NCO category for December. The Sharp Airmen for January is **Senior Airman Marcos Garcia**, 65th Security Forces Squadron. The Sharp NCO for January goes to **Staff Sgt. Nathan Henry**, 65th SFS.

❑ More than 360 Lajes personnel contributed \$76,375 to the Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas, exceeding the amount raised last year.



Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>6:05 a.m.</b> Wake up early for Spin <b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store open <b>1 p.m.</b> Seamstress available, CAC <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Build your own pasta, TORC <b>7 p.m.</b> Teen Night Out, LYP <b>7 p.m.</b> National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) <b>10 p.m.</b> Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)	<b>Noon to 4 p.m.</b> Library open - check out free movies <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Members Only Texas Hold 'Em, TORC <b>7 p.m.</b> Teen Night Out, LYP <b>7 p.m.</b> National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) <b>10 p.m.</b> Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)	<b>9 a.m.</b> Evangelical Service <b>9 a.m.</b> CCD <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Mass <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>Noon</b> , Praise Service <b>Noon to 4 p.m.</b> Pick up mail <b>2 p.m.</b> National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) <b>7 p.m.</b> P.S. I Love You (PG-13)	<b>8 a.m.</b> A&FRC open for President's Day. <b>9 a.m.</b> Dolphin Watching trip with Outdoor Rec - see below <b>10 a.m.</b> Kid's Paintball begins - see more information below <b>10 a.m.</b> Check the BX for sales <b>2 to 6 p.m.</b> Library open holiday hours	<b>7:15 a.m.</b> Circuit Training, Chace Fitness Center <b>10 a.m.</b> EDIS Playgroup, LYP <b>11 a.m.</b> Pizza special w/ 4 drinks, \$11.75, Oceanview <b>1 to 4:30 p.m.</b> Seamstress available, CAC <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Mongolian BBQ, TORC <b>6 p.m.</b> AWANA, chapel	<b>6:05 a.m.</b> Step Aerobics, Chace Fitness Center <b>7:15 a.m.</b> Spin class, CFC <b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store Open <b>2 to 3:30 p.m.</b> Beginner Access, A&FRC <b>5 p.m.</b> Family Night Bowling Rent-A-Lane \$7.50/hr lane, \$1 shoe rental <b>6 p.m.</b> \$ .35 wings at the TORC	<b>7:15 a.m.</b> Circuit Training <b>10 a.m.</b> Library open, check out a book today <b>2 p.m.</b> Free Intermediate Access class, A&FRC <b>6:30 p.m.</b> OSC monthly meeting, TORC <b>7 p.m.</b> P.S. I Love You (PG-13) <b>9 p.m.</b> Karaoke, and chili dog special, TORC

## in the Community

**Basketball:** The local basketball team, Lusitania, will play CAB Madeira in the Angra's Sports Pavilion, 6 p.m. Saturday.

## Chapel 535-4211

**Daily Mass:** 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

**Chapel Library Operation Hours:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

**AWANA Meetings:** 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Women's Bible Study/Lunch:** noon Wednesdays.

**Singles Bible Study/Dinner:** 6 p.m. Thursdays.

**Catholic Choir Rehearsals for Mass:** 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

**Chancel Choir Rehearsals for the Evangelical Service:** 6 p.m. Thursdays.

**Body of Praise Rehearsals for Praise Service:** 6:30 p.m. Thursdays.

**Protestant Youth of the Chapel Meeting:** 6 p.m. Sundays.

**Stations of the Cross:** 6 p.m. beginning Saturday through Mar. 14.

**The National Prayer Breakfast:** 8 a.m. Feb. 26 at the TORC. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the chapel.

## A&FRC 535-4138

**Sponsorship Training:** 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 22.

**Smooth Move Seminar:** 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 25.

**Southeast Asian Cooking Class:** 6 p.m. Feb. 28, A&FRC kitchen.

**Steps to a Successful Family:** 6 to 9 p.m. Mar. 5. Facilitated by the Military & Family Life Consultant.

**A&FRC Open U.S. holidays:** Limited services offered (computer access, loan closet and more).

## Outdoor Rec 535-3302

**Outdoor Rec Closure:** ODR is closed for a renovation project through Mar. 1. Selected resale paintball gear, camping and fishing tackle will be available at the Sports Zone Store in the fitness center. Sign ups for trips, tours, family fun events, golf membership cards and green fees will also be at the Sports Zone. Equipment rental will be available at the Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. T-308.

**Kid's Paintball:** Age 9-12, 10 a.m. to noon Monday. Age 13-18, 2 to 4 p.m.

**Pico Negrao Hiking Trip:** 10 a.m. Feb. 23.

## Outdoor Rec 535-3302

**Jasmim Aromatherapy:** 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, \$18.

**Beginning Sewing Class:** Make a pillow 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 23, \$24.

**Napkin Art Class:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and 21, \$25.

**Cake Decorating Class:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28, \$25.

## BX Merger 535-3444

The following is a timeline for the merger of the Flight View Base Exchange to the Ocean View BX.

Today - completion of carpet removal and tiling at Ocean View. Sunday - New fixtures to be built in Ocean View to make room for merchandise move. Monday to Feb. 28 - rearranging merchandise within Ocean View store.

Feb. 29. - Begin moving merchandise from Flight View to Ocean View store. The entire move is scheduled to be completed by Apr. 1.

Customers shouldn't hesitate to ask staff members for locations of items traditionally in the inventory which may have been relocated during this transition.

## African-American Heritage

**Catfish Fry:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Tickets are \$5. Menu includes Catfish, hush puppies, collard greens and macaroni and cheese. For tickets contact a committee member or Tech. Sgt. Edward Daniels at 535-3583.

**SUM Dinner:** The African-American Heritage Committee is sponsoring the SUM dinner at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the chapel. To volunteer, call 535-3585 or e-mail richard.barnett@lajes.af.mil.

**Reading Volunteers:** Looking for volunteers to read books or speak to Lajes Field students about outstanding achievements of African Americans Tuesday through Feb. 22. To volunteer, contact Tech. Sgt. Latricia Palmer at 535-5133.

**AAHC Banquet:** 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at the TORC. For price and ticket information contact Tech. Sgt. Edward Daniels at 535-3583.

## Classified Ads

*E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.*

For Sale: 1991 Honda Civic, Runs Great! Four new racing tires Nov. 2007, new brakes Feb. 2008. Automatic, Inspection good until June 2009 asking \$3,000. Call 969-569-499 or 535-3192. Available early March. Picture at post office and A&FRC.

For Sale: 1994 Honda Del Sol, new stereo, subwoofer, removable hard top, power windows, air intake system, 97,000 miles. Runs great! Asking \$3,000. Call James at 295-549-546.

For Sale: 1996 Dodge Neon, new stereo, new front speakers, Power locks, sun roof, reliable car. Asking \$2,000. Call James at 295-549-546.

For Sale: Electric Guitar, Fender Stratocaster + case, Sunburst color, 350 euros (new costs 650E). Call Claudia Santos at 969-637-545.

Wanted: Donations needed clothes, shoes, toys, books, household items, etc. All donations are used for the Lajes High School sports teams to raise money for travel. Will pick up donations, e-mail lajes15@yahoo.com or call 295-549-206. Thank you for your support.